

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 27, 2025
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, EunMi Cho, Johnny Deng, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Akkia Pride-Polk, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez, Ceasar Seabron

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Shaquille Gunnison, Naomi Smith

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, John Decker, Camelia Houston, Kenisha Hurd, Mechelle Johnson, Jaspreet Mann, Barbara van Ingen, Lisa West

Visitors: Collin Atlee, Devon Atlee, Francine Atlee, Jacalyn Balanay, Taylor Berry, Loretta Duncan-Fowler, Maureen Fitzgerald, Melissa Kelly, Alma Rodriguez, Yuliana Rodriguez

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Ms. Lampe read aloud ACRC’s Mission and Vision.
2. **Meeting Our Mission**
 - ♦ Ms. Banales introduced Collin Atlee, along with his parents, Devon and Francine.
 - Mr. Atlee shared that they are thrilled to share Collin’s success story. Collin is now 27 years old, and he became an ACRC client at 17 years old. Since then, things have accelerated. Collin has always been an excellent artist and has been able to attend “Exceptional Minds,” a program in Los Angeles, since 2013. Also, with the assistance of Collin’s previous Service Coordinator (SC), Leslie Barton, and his current SC, Joshua Johnson, he continues to thrive.
 - Collin explained that he shares things that are happening in his head by using animation. Being independent has been a challenge, but he wants to work on it.
 - Ms. Atlee is thankful for ACRC’s assistance with helping Collin with his independent living skills.
3. **Community Comments/Announcements**
 - ♦ Ms. Duncan-Fowler shared that the State Council Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council is recruiting volunteers – they have 17 positions, with five filled. If anyone is interested, please contact her at lduncanfowler@yahoo.com.

4. **Consent Agenda** – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Carmen Aguilar; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of January 23, 2025; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.

5. **New Business**

♦ *Approve Slate of Officers for 2025-26 FY*

- Ms. Pennington shared that the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2025-26 fiscal year (FY) is as follows:
 - President – Dan Lake
 - Vice President – Kelly Pennington
 - Secretary – Steven Sanchez
 - Treasurer – Anwar Safvi
 - ARCA Delegate – Kelly Pennington
 - Alternate ARCA Delegate – Dan Lake
 - ARCA-CAC Delegate – Amy Lampe
 - Alternate ARCA-CAC Delegate – Steven Sanchez

M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the proposed Slate of Officers for the 2025-26 FY as presented.

♦ *Approve Revised Conflict of Interest Policy*

- Ms. Banales noted that the revised Conflict of Interest Policy is under Tab 8 of the Board packet; the highlighted areas are the changes. As discussed at the Executive Committee meeting earlier this month, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) put forward new statutory requirements. The Executive Committee has moved to bring this before the Board for approval.

M/S/C (Safvi) To approve the revised Conflict of Interest Policy as presented.

♦ *Retired Annuitant – Dr. Peter Himber*

- Ms. Banales noted that ACRC continues to seek additional resources to assist with the influx of people coming to the regional center seeking services.
- Mr. Ahmad shared that Dr. Peter Himber is expected to retire at the end of April and is a CalPERS member. After retirement, CalPERS requires that there is a six-month break from employment before returning to a CalPERS employer as an annuitant.

- Per regulations, before ACRC hires anyone within that six-month period, the Board of Directors must approve the onboarding due to the needs of the agency.
 - Dr. Himber would be paid at the highest level of the physician's salary scale, which is currently \$136.24 per hour, expected to work part-time (10 to 15 hours per week).
 - Dr. Himber's onboarding will assist with the eligibility determination phase.

M/S/C (Pennington) To approve Dr. Peter Himber's contract as presented.

♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: The minutes from the March 10th and February 10th Finance Committee meetings are under Tab 5 of the Board packet, and the January 31st financial report is under Tab 9.

Mr. Ahmad noted that with the implementation of the rate reform, Purchase of Services (POS) expenditures have increased by \$10 to \$15 million per month.

At the May meeting, he will present the February financial report.

M/S/C (Pride-Polk) To accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

♦ *Committee Updates*

- CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on March 11th and February 11th.
 - The group discussed drafting a person-centered thinking policy for the Board's consideration.
 - They received an update on ACRC's quarterly Supported Decision-Making (SDM) trainings and workshops that are being held across our ten-county catchment area.
 - The next session will be held in Roseville in May.
 - At the February meeting, Amy Lampe and Karen Young reviewed the pamphlet entitled "A Client's Guide to My Individual Program Plan", which the CAC developed a

few years ago. It is posted on ACRC's website in multiple languages.

- PAC
 - Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on March 13th and February 13th.
 - In February, the CPCIDD (California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities) sponsored a "Housing for All" symposium at the Meristem campus, which was well attended.
 - The CPC report is available on their website and focuses on the direct support professional (DSP) workforce shortage.
 - ACRC has done an excellent job in shepherding service providers in the rate reform process. The PAC has convened an ad-hoc committee which will discuss common issues that arise during this process.
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) is highlighting the need for additional advocacy. One of the other areas in the rate study that needs work is transportation, which touches every service. It is critical to maintain these services at the appropriate rates.
 - In March, ACRC's Education Support Team shared the same presentation that was shared at the last Board meeting. With the composition of the PAC, members are looking to collaborate and make sure that transitions happen appropriately when clients age out of school.
 - Earlier this month, the California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) held their Legislative Day at the State Capitol and members met with 115 legislators.
 - They support AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle insurance: vehicle classification. This bill would clarify and support continuity in the law – making sure that DSPs are classified appropriately (not as a commercial provider).
 - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) has been meeting with the Department of Rehabilitation to discuss their 90% rate, due to the quality incentive program, which is not sustainable. CaAPSE is advocating for providers to be paid 100%.
 - On My Own developed a roommate matching app called "OOMM," which has successfully matched five clients.
 - Ms. Banales noted that with the DDS/DRC Deaf and Hard of Hearing settlement, DDS is being held to

offer an app for this population. She has shared that this app has already been developed, and the department is researching options to have this available statewide.

♦ *President's Report*

- Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for everyone in attendance today.
- Due to ACRC's Sacramento office's recent move, it is necessary to update our agency's bylaws to reflect the updated address. The Secretary of State has also been notified.

♦ *Executive Director's Report*

- Ms. Banales shared that it has been a busy few weeks and staff are excited to be in the new office space.
- ACRC has already hosted a statewide conference at our new site – the Lanterman Housing Alliance (LHA) on March 19th & 20th.
 - Mr. Decker shared DDS' "Multifamily Housing Development Map," which is posted on the department's and ACRC's website. The map lists all of the projects that are under development across the state.
 - The State of California has leaned into these projects using the funds that formerly went to developmental centers.
 - There continues to be great interest in housing across the state.
 - ACRC appreciates DDS' support in developing our projects.
 - In May, we will be seeking the Board's approval on additional housing contracts.
 - Ms. Banales recognized the work that is being done across the state, and she is happy to see how large a footprint ACRC has in housing projects. We need to remember to look at the celebrations at the individual level.
- Ms. Johnson shared that ACRC collaborated with our community partners in developing quarterly SDM trainings and workshops. The next one will be held on May 25th at our Roseville office.
 - An informational flyer is posted on our agency's website in multiple languages.
- The Master Plan for Developmental Services (MPDS) final report will be released tomorrow and will be posted on ACRC's website. This community-driven vision reflects ways to improve how California supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the last several months, there have been monthly meetings to generate and develop ideas to support the future of our service system. Stakeholder feedback has been provided and considered as

over 170 recommendations, covering Education, Behavioral Health, Housing, Employment, Transportation, HealthCare, and regional center services were put forth.

- Ms. Banales understands that individuals are seeking a budget update, and the current political climate is worrying people. The Governor put forward the proposed budget in January. Shortly after that, the Southern California fires broke out, after which, he committed \$2.5 billion in relief and extended the tax filing date for those businesses and residents impacted in these areas to October. Typically, the May Revision is influenced by the April tax receipts; we will wait to see how this extension might affect the May Revision. Governor Newsom has also asked for an additional \$3.4 billion to cover the shortfall in Medi-Cal used to cover undocumented individuals.
 - Yesterday, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 held their first hearing and Chair Corey Jackson stated that he wanted the committee to remember the commitment to our state's entitlement for the developmentally disabled population. Director Cervinka provided an overview of the developmental services system with the changes to Medicaid. If other generically available resources get cut, regional centers are the payor of last resort, so that could potentially affect our service system.
 - Ms. Banales assured those present that whatever the outcome of the 2025-26 FY budget, we will continue to be resilient and provide the much-needed services to the population that we serve.
- On March 18th, ACRC held the first POS Data Meeting and presented the 2024 POS data points. This past Tuesday, we held a second meeting to gather feedback from the community.
 - Ms. Banales noted that we have already started internal conversations to implement many of the suggestions.
- On ACRC's website and social media platforms, we have posted a "Who Do You Contact" listing to make sure clients and families know how to contact ACRC staff for support. ACRC is committed to providing excellent customer service.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) held its Annual Grassroots Day at the State Capitol on March 4th. Statewide there were over 200 participants that attended 114 meetings.
 - ACRC had 17 individuals attend ten meetings.
 - Participants pushed forward the priorities of ARCA and lobbied for the entitlement as a priority. Our message was received with support from California's legislators.

♦ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*

- Ms. Lampe shared that the meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled.

♦ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Ms. Pennington shared that ARCA met last week.
 - As delegates, Board members have an opportunity to share things, and she was able to share the "Who Do You Contact" with her peers.
 - They received a presentation from San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SGPRC) and Westside Regional Center (WRC) about the fires that both of their areas experienced. It was great to see the collaboration between regional center's Emergency Response Coordinators.
 - The group discussed ARCA sponsored bills – AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications, and SB 422 (Grayson) California Workforce Development Board: developmental services.
 - The ARCA Board of Directors will meet again on June 27th.

6. ***Closed Session*** – At 5:18 p.m. the Board adjourned to closed session to discuss personnel issues.

7. ***Announcement of Closed Meeting Discussion*** - At 7:00 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session following a closed session in which personnel issues were discussed.

8. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales